

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

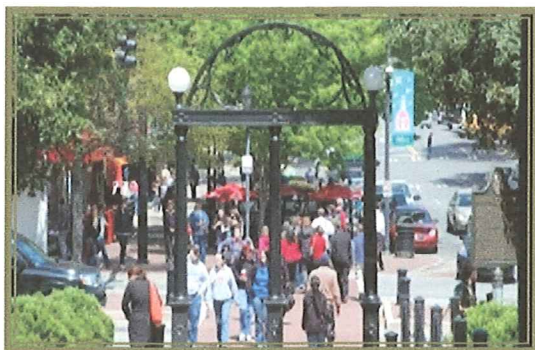
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Mission Statement

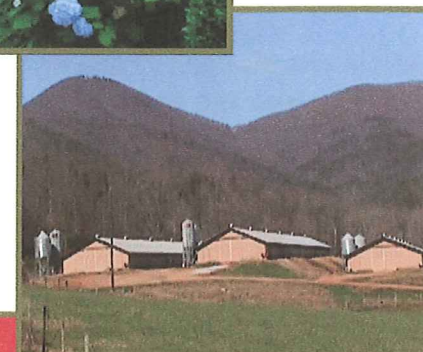
The Cooperative Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/Youth in Lumpkin County with unbiased, researched-based education and information

Learning *for* **Life**



The University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers education programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

Lumpkin County Cooperative Extension 2009 Annual Report



**26 Johnson Street, Suite A
Dahlonega, GA. 30533**

Meet Your Lumpkin County Extension Staff...

Greg Sheppard serves as the County Extension Coordinator responsible for the overall Extension program in the county. He also assists farmers and homeowners with information and requests relating to Agriculture & Natural Resources. Greg is an ISA Certified Arborist, a Certified Nutrient Management Planner, and a licensed commercial pesticide applicator.

Ian Cowie serves as the County Extension Agent for 4-H and Youth in both Lumpkin and Dawson Counties. He plans and conducts the program activities for over 600 young people registered in the county 4-H program. Ian works closely with other youth programs such as the Family Connection Program and the local Youth Mentoring program.

Donna Jarrard is the County Extension Secretary. She handles registration for 4-H events and other educational activities. She also receives agriculture samples for analysis and provides assistance to office visitors. Donna serves as the accounts payable and receivable clerk and serves as the administrative assistant to agents in the office.

Alicia Robinson is the 4-H Program Assistant. Alicia works 20 hours a week and conducts most of the monthly 4-H programs in the schools. She also assists in planning and conducting other 4-H activities.

You may recognize members of the local staff, but did you know that our local Extension office staff is ably supported by a cadre of specialists from the University of Georgia College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences? You can consider the local Extension office a your doorway to the resources of the University of Georgia.



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2009 Annual Highlights

Educational Programs Provided

Agriculture Programs	61
4H / Youth Programs	209

Teaching Contacts

Agriculture	911
4H / Youth Programs	5,380

Agriculture & Natural Resources and Educational Programs

Soil Samples Sent to Lab for testing	184
Water Samples Sent to Lab for testing	56
Plant Pathology & Insect Identification	354
Radon Test Kits Distributed	25
Newspaper Articles Written	52
Educational Newsletters Distributed	2,742
Phone, Office Visits & Consultations	4,851
Home Visit Consultations	373
Contacts Through Exhibits	200
Rabies & Gold Rush Volunteer Hours Camp Volunteers	744

**Grand
Total
Contacts
for
2009
16,142**



2009 Highlights in Agriculture & Natural Resources

As a certified arborist, Greg served on the City of Dahlonega Tree board advising City officials on issues concerning the tree inventory, tree removals, hazard tree evaluations, tree maintenance issues. He worked closely with a commercial arborist retained by the city to address tree issues in the city limits. Greg also helped plan and conduct Arbor Day tree planting ceremonies in the city. He provided consultation to the county Park & Rec. department in the planting and management of newly planted trees in Yahoola Creek Park. Greg also made numerous home visits throughout the year to county residences to discuss tree maintenance and removal issues with property owners. Greg served as the coordinator of the Northeast District 4-H Forestry Field Day competition which is held at Camp Wahsega. Approximately 120 students from schools across Northeast Georgia participated in the contest.

The Extension office worked throughout the year to support the local commercial vineyard industry. Greg helped plan and conduct the annual Georgia Vineyard Update program at the Experiment Station in Blairsville. He also made numerous troubleshooting visits to vineyards during the growth season. Greg assisted UGA Plant Pathologist, Dr. Phil Brannen, in conducting a training for Extension agents in commercial vineyard management and disease control.



Greg also hosted a tour to our local "wine country" by members of the Georgia association of projects to assist local vineyard growers. One project was directed to the control of Pierce's Disease in local vineyards. The second project evaluated defacement methods of suppression grass growth in vineyards to reduce mowing costs.



A tract of land owned by Lumpkin County was slated for development as a new county park. The development would result in the destruction of many valuable native plants. The County Manager knowing the success of past Extension led plant rescues in the county asked the agent Greg Sheppard to conduct a plant rescue on the property. One hundred and thirty one citizens participated in the plant rescue. They collected many desirable native plants including native azaleas, mountain laurel, dogwoods, trilliums, ferns. Most participants left with their vehicles completely full of rescued plants. The total value of the 4 day rescue was estimated to be \$12,445. The participants were excited to be a part of the plant rescue and in knowing that the Native plants would be saved for future enjoyment of local residents.



Served as the Extension representative for the Coosa-North Georgia Water Planning Council. The council was formed as part of the Governor's initiative to address plans for the development and conservation of water resources for our state.

Conducted home and farm troubleshooting visits throughout the year to assist homeowners and farmers in solving agriculture related needs on their property. The staff also conducted programs to educate poultry growers on new grant opportunities to save energy on their farms, teach the latest principles in wildlife food plot development, and train pesticide applicators in the proper use of pesticides. Educational programs were delivered to individuals, growers groups, and local civic clubs.



2009 Highlights in 4-H and Youth Programs

- The Lumpkin County 4-H program is a partner in public education. All youth in grades 5th and 6th are served through the school system as a component of the school curriculum. In 2009, there were 650 youth who participated in the program.



- Opportunities are offered for youth to learn and excel in leadership, citizenship, public speaking, and critical thinking skills as well as teamwork, character building and good sportsmanship these are some of the benefits the 4-H'ers receive.

- There were eighty-eight 4-H'ers that competed at district project contests. District project achievement consist of 4-Hers competing against each other in a category of interest. Both competitors speak on a subject and the details given helps the judges determine the winner of the category. One of our high schoolers went onto the state competition and placed first. He became a Master 4-H'er, the highest level of accomplishment.



- 4-H Volunteers performed 744 hours of service in 2009, they helped with the annual rabies clinic, which set another record of 1100+ vaccinations to the resident's dogs and cats. 4-H held it's Annual Gold Rush Parking at the Courthouse, funds collected on this two day event provide 4-Hers the opportunities to enjoy going to camp, competing at judging events, and attending summer activities and trips to Rock Eagle Center.

- There were more than 65 4-H members that attended summer camps throughout the state from Camp Wahsega in Dahlonega to Camp at Jekyll Island 4-H Center.



- 25 Junior and Senior 4-H members competed in judging team events. These events included forestry, poultry and consumer judging contests.

- Twenty-two high school students mentored middle school students by teaching them about healthy life choices after each presentation was completed the middle schoolers planted a flower bulb which symbolizes a promise of hope for their future choices.



4-H Motto

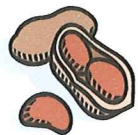
"To Make The Best Better"

4-H Pledge

I Pledge . . .
My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service, and
My Health to better living, for
my Club, my Community, my
Country, and my World.



4-H Corner a view into School programs



4-H Nutrition Education



4-Hers participated in basic Nutrition through the classroom. 5th grade members learned about the importance of agricultural production in the State with an emphasis on peanuts. The 4-Hers participated in a contest on Peanut nutrition recipes. Entries were sandwich recipes using peanut butter. There were different categories from most nutritious to messiest. Judging was done by older 4-H members who read and compared each recipe. Members submitted their recipes listing ingredients and steps to complete the sandwich. Winners of the contest received top prize – limited edition “4-H Peanutrition” T-shirt. The contest is sponsored by the Georgia Peanut Commission and part of the 4-H program.



4-H Good & Bad Germs Education



This program is about microbes those good and bad germs children often hear about. Bacteria play an important role in our lives. How would life be different without yeast bread or cheese or yogurt? 4-H introduced a program “**Wash Your Paws Georgia**” to each Elementary school. All school nurses in January received teaching materials and a great PowerPoint to get students to wash their hands. This is a few views of how 4-H programs help make learning more fun for the kids.

Learning for Life



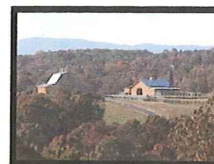
Agriculture and Nature Resources Corner



Agriculture is big business in Lumpkin County. The value of locally produced agricultural commodities was over 47 million dollars last year. In addition, 817 local jobs are directly related to agriculture. The Extension staff works hard to support this important part of the local economy. Regular production meetings are held for livestock producers,



poultry growers, commercial vineyard growers and others. Troubleshooting visits and services are conducted to assist farmers. These can range from diagnosing a disease in a pick-your-own vegetable farm and recommending a treatment to developing a nutrient management plan for a local poultry farm.



Residential growth in Lumpkin County has been rapid in recent years. Homeowners also utilize the services of our office. We assist homeowners in a broad range of subject matter ranging from identifying insect and weed problems and recommending treatment to testing their garden soil and drinking water. Unfortunately, the Extension staff has ½ the full time staff members it had 15 years ago to meet the increasing demands of county residents. To help meet this demand we are fortunate to have a group of 47



Certified Master Gardener Volunteers. Master Gardeners are local horticulture enthusiasts that enjoy helping people. They receive over 50 hours of instruction on horticulture related topics from the Extension office. In return, they volunteer 50 hours of community service in order to become certified. Each year thereafter they perform a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service in order to retain their certification. We have 14 Master Gardeners who have performed this volunteer service for over 10 consecutive years! Last year Master Garden Volunteers performed over 3362 hours of service. The estimated value of that service to the county was \$65,525. They assisted 3357 local residents, traveled 9961 miles, and contacted 884 people by phone. In addition to helping individuals they conducted a number of programs. They planned and conducted the annual Garden Expo during the Mountain Wildflower Festival in Dahlonega. They worked on demonstration gardens at our schools and conducted plant clinics for the public. They made presentations to local civic groups and worked with children's programs. Master Gardeners are a valuable addition to our overall County Extension Program.

